

Illinois DeafBlind Project Intervener Training Program Overview

The Illinois DeafBlind Project (ILDBP) Intervener Training Program is a free, hybrid (online and on-site coaching) program designed to:

- Train paraprofessionals already assigned to work with students, age 3-19 years with DeafBlindness who are on the ILDBP Child Count, and
- Support trainees (intervener candidates) through the online portfolio process in order to obtain the national credential, and subsequently apply for the Illinois Deaf-Blind Intervener approval.

The program requires that the intervener candidate's district administration and student's family support and consent in writing to the training and the creation of a credentialing portfolio. After approval is obtained and prior to in-classroom visits, an informational meeting will be provided by project staff with the student's teachers, related service providers, and other key team members. Both the training and the portfolio will require that photographs and video be taken of the focus student and intervener working together. As appropriate, student consent will also be acquired.

In return, ILDBP does not charge for any of the training services. The training includes:

- An online course of study: The training will utilize the *Open Hands, Open Access (OHOA) Deaf-Blind Intervener Learning Modules*. These modules, created by the National Center on DeafBlindness, have been tailored for the state of Illinois for this training program. The modules will provide overall content on DeafBlindness and provide intervener candidates all of the knowledge and skills contained in the Council for Exceptional Children's (CEC) standards for DeafBlind Intervention. Some modules will be assigned to address specific skills needed for an individual candidate to serve their specific student. Assignments will create items the intervener candidate may want to use in their future portfolio. Once all modules are successfully completed, intervener candidates can apply for an honorarium of \$50 per module (for a total of \$800).
- Meetings with ILDBP coach: A DeafBlind Specialist from ILDBP Illinois DeafBlind Services will meet as needed (face to face and virtual) with the candidate, as well as provide on-site coaching and consultation in the (a minimum of three observations to document skill acquisition and alignment with CEC standards).

- Portfolio support from ILDBP: When the training is completed, ILDBP will mentor the intervener candidates as they develop an online portfolio using the National Intervener Certification E-Portfolio System. The portfolio system is open to the candidate for one year, but with mentoring it is anticipated that candidates can complete a portfolio within four to six months using artifacts that have been collected during training. Opening a portfolio account currently costs \$75. ILDBP will reimburse the cost of the portfolio, AND provide a \$500 honorarium to intervener candidates whose portfolios grant them a credential.
- Support during approval: After certification is obtained, ILDBP will help intervener candidates complete the Illinois State Board of Education Intervener approval process. ILDBP will provide an additional \$500 honorarium to intervener candidates who become Illinois approved interveners.
- ONCE APPROVED, PARTICIPANTS CAN PROVIDE INTERVENTION AS A RELATED SERVICE ON AN IEP IN ILLINOIS. THE FULL PROCESS CAN TAKE 18 – 24 MONTHS.

TOTAL POSSIBLE HONORARIUM	
ALL OHOA MODULES IN TRAINING	\$800
CERTIFICATION	\$500 (plus reimbursement of Portfolio cost)
APPROVAL	\$500
TOTAL	\$1,800 (plus reimbursement of Portfolio cost)

Note: Honorariums provided after receipt of applications. Applications provided upon request.

Please see the sample Training Syllabus beginning on page 3.

ILDBP Intervener Candidate Sample Training Program Syllabus

Flex is allowed for months with holiday/vacation weeks/etc.

MONTH	ONLINE CONTENT	MEETINGS	NICE PORTFOLIO	IL APPROVAL	OTHER
1	OHOA Welcome and Orientation Module 1: Overview of Deaf-Blindness and Instructional Strategies	Introductory online meeting: Discuss the modules, answer overall questions BASELINE OBSERVATION VISIT	Discuss CEC Standards (coach) File observation report to consider including in portfolio	NA	OHOA Module host and coach may not be the same person, but the two people will be in close communication. DURING ALL MODULES, FILE HOMEWORK PRODUCTS ELECTRONICALLY TO CONSIDER INCLUDING IN PORTFOLIO
2	Module 2: The Sensory System, The Brain, and Learning Module 3: The Role of Interveners in Educational Settings	Coach/Mentor available by phone/web between face-to-face visits	NA	NA	
3	Module 11: Intervener Strategies	↓	NA	NA	
4	Module 4: Building Trusted Relationships and Positive Self-Image	↓	NA	NA	Group meetings regarding CEC Standards

					Standard #4
5	Module 7: Emergent Communication	MIDPOINT OBSERVATION VISIT ↓	File observation report to consider including in portfolio	NA	DURING ALL MODULES, FILE HOMEWORK PRODUCTS ELECTRONICALLY TO CONSIDER INCLUDING IN PORTFOLIO
6	Module 26: Touch for Connection and Communication Module 9: Routines	↓	NA	NA	Group meetings regarding CEC Standards Standard #2
7	Module 13: Calendars Module 21: Sexuality	Coach/Mentor available by phone/web between face-to-face visits	NA	NA	Group meetings regarding CEC Standards Standard #3 and Stand #4
8	Module 14: Introduction to Orientation and Mobility		NA	NA	Group meetings regarding CEC Standards Standard #5

9	CHOOSE ONE: Behavior (23) or Social Skills and Peer Relationships (17)	↓	Discuss NICE Process	NA	Group meetings regarding CEC Standards Standard #6
10	CHOOSE ONE: Introduction to Sign Language and Braille (22), or Maximizing Vision and Hearing (12)		↓	NA	Group meetings regarding CEC Standards Standard #7
11	CHOOSE ONE: Self-Determination (16) , or Transition to Adulthood (24)	FINAL OBSERVATION VIST ↓	File observation report to consider including in portfolio	NA	DURING ALL MODULES, FILE HOMEWORK PRODUCTS ELECTRONICALLY TO CONSIDER INCLUDING IN PORTFOLIO
12	Module 18: Collaborative Teaming OHOA Module catch up, if needed	↓	Consider applying for NICE, completing NICE Modules and paperwork	NA	Group meetings regarding CEC Standards Standard #1

13	Module 20: Values, Ethics, & Professionalism OHOA Module catch up, if needed	Coach supports portfolio construction, supports photography and videotaping if needed	Consider applying for NICE, completing NICE Modules and paperwork OR Begin portfolio construction	NA	
14	May complete Modules or sections of Modules as self-study, if desired ↓	↓	Construct portfolio ↓	NA	
15				NA	
16				NA	
17	May complete Modules or sections of Modules as self-study, if desired ↓	Coach supports portfolio construction, supports photography videotaping if needed	Construct/Submit Portfolio	NA	
18		Coach helps with portfolio checklist	Submit Portfolio	NA	

19		↓	↓	When certification received, apply for approval	
20		↓	↓	↓	
21		Coach helps with approval application		↓	Once approval is received, candidate can be listed as “intervener” on IEP
22		Coach helps with approval application		When certification received, apply for approval	Once approval is received, candidate can be listed as “intervener” on IEP
23		↓		↓	
24		↓		↓	↓